

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Delete)

Claim 2 (Currently amended) The elliptically polarizing plate according to claim [1] 24, wherein the plate comprises at least the polarizer, and the first and the second optical layers and the layers are laminated in this order.

Claim 3 (Delete)

Claim 4 (Currently amended) The elliptically polarizing plate according to claim [1] 24, wherein the first optical anisotropic layer is formed of a [rod-like] calamitic nematic liquid crystal.

Claim 5 (Currently amended) The elliptically polarizing plate according to claim [1], 24 wherein the second optical anisotropic layer is formed of a discotic liquid crystal.

Claim 6 (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell of twisted nematic mode, wherein [the] an elliptically polarizing plate according to claim [1] 24 is provided on [at least one] each side of the liquid crystal cell.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) The liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal cell of twisted nematic mode [according to claim 6], wherein the elliptically polarizing plate according to claim [1] 24 is provided on one side of the liquid crystal cell and an other optical compensation layer is provided on the opposite side of the liquid crystal cell.

Claims 8-12 (Delete)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim [12] 24 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 20° and about 85°.

Claim 14. (Original) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 13 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 30° and about 80°.

Claim 15. (Original) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 14 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 40° and about 75°.

Claim 16. (Original) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 15 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 5° and about 70°.

Claim 17. (Original) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 16 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 7° and about 60°.

Claim 18. (Original) An elliptically polarizing plate as set forth in claim 17 wherein the first optical layer has an average angle of tilt of between about 10° and about 50°.

Claims 19-21 (Delete)

Claim 22. (Currently amended) A liquid crystal display as set forth in claim [21] further comprising a compensation layer laminated directly or indirectly to a second side of the liquid crystal cell.

Claim 23. (Original) A liquid crystal display as set forth in claim 22 further comprising a reflective layer.

Claim 24. (New) An elliptically polarizing plate comprising a laminate of:
a polarizer having a first planar side and an opposing planar side and comprising a polarizer film having a thickness of from about 5 to about 80 μm , and optionally including a protective layer having a thickness which is less than about 500 μm ;

a first anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second planar side, said layer being made from a first material that is a calamitic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , said first anisotropic optical layer having a positive refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 10 to about 1000 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the

thickness of from about -400 to about 900 nm wherein the refractive indexes in two directions within the plane is set to n_x and n_y , the refractive index in the thickness direction is set to n_z , and the thickness is d ;

a second anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second side and said layer being made from a second material that is a discotic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , and said second anisotropic optical layer having a negative refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 1 to about 500 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about 0 to about 700 nm; and

one of the planar sides of the polarizer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the first anisotropic optical layer and the second planar side of the second anisotropic layer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the second anisotropic layer, and the second layer being oriented so that the optical plane of the second layer is substantially orthogonal to the optical plane of the first optical layer.

25. (New) A liquid crystal display comprising a liquid crystal cell having a first side laminated directly or indirectly to an elliptically polarizing plate comprising a polarizer film having a thickness of from about 5 to about 80 μm , and optionally including a protective layer having a thickness which is less than about 500 μm ;

a first anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second planar side, said layer being made from a first material that is a calamitic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , said first anisotropic optical layer having a positive refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 10 to about 1000 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about -400 to about 900 nm wherein the refractive indexes in two directions within the plane is set to n_x and n_y , the refractive index in the thickness direction is set to n_z , and the thickness is d ;

a second anisotropic optical layer having a first planar side and an opposing second side and said layer being made from a second

material that is a discotic liquid crystal which has a thickness of from about 0.5 to about 500 μm and optionally includes a substrate having a thickness of from about 0 to about 500 μm , and said second anisotropic optical layer having a negative refractive index anisotropy and an optical axis that is tilted relative to the plane of the polarizer and which has a retardation $R_e = (n_x - n_y) \times d$ within the plane of the layer of from about 1 to about 500 nm and a retardation $R_{th} = (n_x - n_z) \times d$ in the direction of the thickness of from about 0 to about 700 nm; and

one of the planar sides of the polarizer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the first anisotropic optical layer and the second planar side of the second anisotropic layer being laminated directly or by means of an intermediate adhesive layer to the first planar side of the second anisotropic layer, and the second layer being oriented so that the optical plane of the second layer is substantially orthogonal to the optical plane of the first optical layer.